

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 3-5, 8-13 and 15 have been amended as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content comprising:
a distributing recording medium on which a content file having header information and a data body is recorded and lacks part of the header information to prevent unauthorized play and unauthorized copy of the data body;

management means for managing use of the content file on the distributing recording medium and capable of transferring the prepared part of the header information as piece data via a communication line; and

a digital content playing device used for at least playing the content file on the distributing recording medium and having a function of communicating via the communication line with the management means, wherein

when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the management means, the management means checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request before transferring the piece data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device uses the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece data only in play

operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

Claim 2 (original): A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content comprising:
a distributing recording medium on which a content file having header information and a data body is recorded in a state of lacking at least part of the header information;

management means for managing use of the content file on the distributing recording medium and capable of transmitting the prepared part of the header information as piece data via a communication line; and

a digital content playing device used for at least playing the content file on the distributing recording medium and having a function of communicating via the communication line with the management means, wherein

when a request to play the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the management means, the management means checks authentication of the user related to the request before transmitting the piece data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device uses the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece data in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A distributing recording medium fabrication device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1 [[or 2]], which

separates piece data from a content file having header information and a data body for recording and records the content file separated from the piece data on a recording medium received in the preparation device to create a distributing recording medium.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1 [[or 2]], which has functions of: when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, transmitting the request via the communication line to the management means; and thereafter, when the piece data is transmitted from the management means via the communication line, using the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece data in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the digital content playing device is a computer and the playing software is processed by the computer, and wherein the system is made such that when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the management means, and thereafter, when the piece data is transmitted from the management means via the communication line, the header information on the distributing recording medium and the piece data are used in play operation to play the data body on the distributing recording medium.

Claim 6 (original): A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content comprising:
delivery management means delivering a content file having header information and a data body via a communication line and managing use of the data body; and

a digital content playing device capable of communicating via the communication line with the delivery management means and used for at least playing the content file delivered from the delivery management means, wherein

when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the delivery management means, the delivery management means transfers the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device by lacking part of the header information to prevent unauthorized play and unauthorized copy thereof, thereafter, when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transfers the request via the communication line to the delivery management means, the delivery management means checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request to transfer the prepared part of the header information as piece data via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device uses the header information of the transferred content file and the piece data only in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 7 (original): A system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content comprising:
delivery management means which is a server in which a content file having header

information and a data body is prepared in a state of lacking part of the header information and the part of the header information is prepared as piece data, and which delivers the content file via a communication line and manages use of the data body; and

a digital content playing device capable of communicating via the communication line with the delivery management means and used for at least playing the content file delivered from the delivery management means, wherein

when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the delivery management means, the delivery management means transmits the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, thereafter, when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device, the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the delivery management means, the delivery management means checks authentication of the user related to the request to transmit the piece data of the content file related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device uses the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 6 [[or 7]], which has functions of: when a request to download the content file is inputted by a user, transmitting the request via the

communication line to the delivery management means; after the content file is transmitted from the delivery management means, when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, transmitting the request via the communication line to the delivery management means; and thereafter, when the piece data is transmitted from the delivery management means via the communication line, using the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 6 [[or 7]], wherein the digital content playing device is a computer and the playing software is processed by the computer, and in which the system is made such that when a request to download the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the delivery management means, after the content file is transmitted from the delivery management means, when a request to play the content file is inputted by the user, the request is transmitted via the communication line to the delivery management means, and thereafter, when the piece data is transmitted from the delivery management means via the communication line, the header information of the transmitted content file and the piece data are used in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, ~~2, 6 or 7~~, wherein the digital content playing device has functions of: determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which piece data is transmitted from the

management means or the delivery management means; and when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece data.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 4 [[or 8]], which has functions of: determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which piece data is transmitted from the management means or the delivery management means; and when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece data.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 5 [[or 9]], comprising additional descriptions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which piece data is transmitted from the management means or the delivery management means, and

when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted piece data.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 1, ~~2, 6 or 7~~, wherein the digital content playing device ~~according to claim 4 or 8~~ is a computer, provided that [[the]] playing software ~~according to claim 5 or 9~~ processed by the computer is prepared in the management means or the delivery management means, when a request to download the playing software is inputted by the user to the digital content playing device,

the digital content playing device transmits the request via the communication line to the management means or the delivery management means, the management means or the delivery management means transmits the playing software related to the request via the communication line to the digital content playing device, and the digital content playing device downloads the playing software.

Claim 14 (original): A digital content unauthorized play prevention method, wherein provided that a content file having header information and a data body in a digital content playing device previously lacks part of the header information in order to prevent unauthorized play and unauthorized copy of the data body, and that the part of the header information is prepared as piece data in management means for managing use of the content file in the device and capable of communicating via a communication line with the device, when a request to play the content file under authentication and charging conditions is inputted by a user to the device, the device transfers the request via the communication line to the management means, the management means checks authentication and charging of the user related to the request to transfer the piece data via the communication line to the device, and the device uses the header information of the content file and the piece data only in play operation to play the data body of the content file.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 2 [[or 7]], wherein the request to play the content file by the user is made under an authentication and/or charging condition of the user.

Claim 16 (original): The system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 10, wherein the digital content playing device has functions of: determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from piece data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management means; and when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

Claim 17 (original): The digital content playing device used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 11, which has functions of: determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from piece data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management means; and when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

Claim 18 (original): The playing software used for the system for preventing unauthorized play of digital content according to claim 12, comprising additional descriptions of:

determining an elapsed period from the point of time at which, aside from piece data, the content file is transmitted from the delivery management means, and
when the elapsed period reaches a predetermined period, deleting the transmitted content file.

Claim 19 (original): A digital content unauthorized play prevention method, wherein provided that a content file having header information and a data body in a digital content playing

device previously lacks part of the header information in order to prevent unauthorized play of the data body, and that the part of the header information is prepared as piece data in management means for managing use of the content file in the device and communicable via a communication line with the device, when a request to play the content file is inputted by a user to the device, the device transmits the request via the communication line to the management means, the management means checks authentication of the user related to the request to transmit the piece data of the content file related to the request via the communication line to the device, and the device uses the header information of the content file and the piece data in play operation to play the data body of the content file.